



## SWARC NEWS-05/24

### Notes from KO4ZFO (Rodney)

Thank you all for coming out to our Spring picnic. It was great to see everyone, including some new faces. I hope to see you all again at our next meeting. For all of our new members, please consider helping the club out and run for an officer at our next meeting. Also, please sign up for field day and operate a station. If you are new to Ham Radio, this is a great opportunity to learn how to work a station in the field. It's also a great chance to see what others use in the field and share ideas on how to build a station that works for you.

Please remember our fellow members who are dealing with various medical situations. Please reach out to these members. Even a phone call can brighten their day and give them encouragement through their recovery.

We ask you to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary, KO4LQX, Kenny, KJ4CVK, Steve, KA0GMY, Bernie Jones (N4BAJ), Al Kinnamon, WA3JJG, and the family of Danny Hampton, K4ITL (SK).

Steve, KA0GMY, continues to have health issues, but he was at our current meeting and feisty as ever!

Gary Plante, KO4LQX, reports: 'As far as how I'm doing, so far so good! I started going back to the gym and I'm building back up again which pleased my doctors. It's taking me a little longer to work out because of getting winded from breathing through my trach, which has only a 6mm ID but it's going well.'



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My kidney function looked a little wonky two treatments ago but my oncologist was not too worried about it and said they will keep an eye on it (they don't want to worry you so I think they say that a lot).

Then during my last treatment those labs were good but my liver function was elevated and again they weren't too concerned.

The scary part is that the immunotherapy can start to attack healthy cells and if so, it will have to be stopped, so that is always in the back of my mind when things like that happen. I'm due for another scan June 4th and hoping for the same results as last time.' (Report from Richard Hall).

Kenny (KJ4CVK), has ongoing health issues, so keep him in your thoughts. Consider reaching out to him to give him a boost in his spirits.

Bernie (N4BAJ) has been fighting illness for many weeks and reportedly is finally over the repeated pneumonia sieges that he has had, and he has checked into one or more evening nets.

Al Kinnamon (WA3JJG) has several discs in his back that will be fused; surgery is scheduled for next week.

Thanks again and we'll see you next month,  
Rodney  
KO4ZFO

Be sure to pay attention to location given in Sign Up Genius invitation when it is sent out.



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## Notes from WB4SMS (Steve)

Hello SWARC Members

The May meeting was a great success. The in-person attendance continues to grow and that makes me very happy. The food, fellowship and camaraderie show that we have quality HAMs here in South Wake. The end of the fiscal year is coming soon, and with that, your 2024-2025 dues will come due at the end of June. \$30 for a single membership, \$5 for additional family members. These are payable to either the Treasurer or the President, as they both have receipt books for proof of payment. Field Day 2024 is quickly approaching. Please plan to join us at the American Legion. We plan to operate the club station for the full 24 hours. Rodney has the signup sheet for time slots. That does not mean you cannot setup your own station on the property! Come out and enjoy the time with fellow HAMs. We do need to be out of Building 2 Sunday by 6 am, but we still have access to the radio shack and the grass areas.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the air and in person soon.

73,  
Steve WB4SMS



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### SWARC 1 May 2024 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was very well attended and there was food for everyone! Steve (WB4SMS) and Rodney (KO4ZFO) cooked the burgers and dogs, some chicken and a lot of side dishes were provided by the membership.

Those in physical attendance were:

Bill Blomgren (KK4QDZ), Al Crawford (WA4TCJ), Linda Crawford (KI4LO), Rich Gehle (KZ4ET) and wife Jane, Brian Knox (KK4BK), Robert Walker (KQ4GSA), Steve Worth (NC4SW), Phil Warnick (KQ4MSQ), Matt Price (KE4NIP), Ron Cooney (K4AAA) and wife Paula, Mike Gaither (KW4MG), Dave Krum (NW3U) and wife Penny, Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), Paul Nicholson (KN4NGI), Steve Mowels (KA0GMY), Greg Gabry (N9PGG), Christy Fernandini (KJ4AEO), Gino Fernandina (KI4YXO) and son, Wally Courie (NC1NC), David Gilmore (AE4DG), Mike Callam (KD4MC), and Dianne Young (KE4VNX). Our only guests were Dean Gustafson (WB4HSF) from Cary and brand new ham, Robert Hansel (KQ4RKT)..

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Richard Hall (k7RLH) and introductions were made around the room near the end of the meeting.

#### **Old/Unfinished Business**

President Rodney (KO4ZFO) led the discussion about Field Day—note that it is on 22-23 June and not the last weekend of the month. The timeframe is 2:00 pm Saturday thru 2:00 pm Sunday. Be sure to reach out to Rodney if you want to sign up for an operating period or set up



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your own station. The public will be invited for the period of 1:00 pm thru 3:00 pm to that interested folks can see part of the setup time and then stations if full operation.

Brian (KK4BK) reminded us of upcoming officer and board elections and asked that we consider volunteering for one of the positions or nominating someone else for the job(s).

### **New Business**

It was noted that Penny Krum will have cookies for sale to support her charity of 'No Kid Hungry'. If you want to pre-order, you should reach out to Penny by email.

Steve (WB4SMS) moved that we do a pork BBQ type meal for the family gathering that is an annual part of Field Day. The motion was seconded and passed. At next meeting (June), we will discuss the costs associated with this decision and how much to charge per plate. Of course, members can provide side dishes as usual. Stay tuned for more info next month.

Rodney (KO4ZFO) asked members to provide their phone numbers so that we can more easily reach out and keep up with needs of our members. Send phone numbers to Richard (K7RLH) at [k7rlh@hotmail.com](mailto:k7rlh@hotmail.com). Only a few of you have responded to this request to date!

### **Program/Presentation**

None, it was the annual Spring Picnic!



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### Public Service

Dave Krum (NW3U) was present and he discussed a number of upcoming events; to sign up for events at the website listed below.

*Check the [HPSNC.org](http://HPSNC.org) web site often for Public Service opportunities. The public service season is upon us and events need volunteers. You may also get to public service events on the RARS and SWARC websites.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Christy Fernandini's report detailed \$140.00 cash for dues and one club t-shirt with no deductions. Balance of \$2,063.74 with no obligated funds or invoices outstanding.

The meeting was officially adjourned around 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Hall K7RLH  
Secretary and Newsletter Editor

### MEMBERSHIP

You can bring a check or cash for dues to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will advise she has received





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them. Also, you can now renew somewhat online by contacting Christy and giving her the appropriate credit card info for the 'Square' account. Christy's email is [christyfernandini@outlook.com](mailto:christyfernandini@outlook.com). Make checks payable to South Wake ARC and send to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

## NET REPORT

SWARC Group – April 2024

The monthly total of check-ins was 209—a very significant downturn from last month! **I guess the summer doldrums are here!** Note that **not** all net controls record their counts so numbers could actually be higher than recorded.

- Saturday and Sunday evenings will be called by KT4JR & K7RLH
- KO4ZFO will call Monday evenings
- KN4OEY will call Tuesday evenings
- KK4BK will call Wednesday evenings except on meeting nights
- KO4ZFO or a board member will call Thursday evenings
- Fridays will continue to be called by NC4MP
- And we need backups – JUST BECAUSE.

Please contact Rodney Warren (KO4ZFO) or Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), if you are interested in calling one or more nets.



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### SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of its members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service. Refer to the SWARC web site for the Board of Directors/Officers and Appointed Positions.

**LINKS** (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

***PRN***

***A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network***

[www.ncprn.net](http://www.ncprn.net)

***GigaParts***

[www.gigaparts.com](http://www.gigaparts.com)

***QRZ***

[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

***Ham Radio Outlet HRO***

[www.hamradio.com](http://www.hamradio.com)

***Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS***

[www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)

***Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS***

[www.jars..net](http://www.jars..net)

***South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC***

[www.southwakearc.com](http://www.southwakearc.com)

***Carolina 440 Network***

[www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net)





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***North Carolina Packet***

[www.ncpacket.com](http://www.ncpacket.com)

***TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Packet Radio Net)***

[www.tarpn.net](http://www.tarpn.net)

***Useful Ham Info***

[www.torborg.com/a](http://www.torborg.com/a)

***Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts***

[www.fivecountyhre.org](http://www.fivecountyhre.org)

## Amateur Radio in the News

### MFJ Ceasing On-Site Production

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown.

In a letter posted to social media, Jue said he is looking forward to retiring:

*Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.*

*I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.*

Jue founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than \$10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Jue shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have "a lot of stock on hand." They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Jue expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years.





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He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.

He also sent a special message to ARRL Members and loyal QST readers:

*"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world, and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ.*

*MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin F. Jue, k5flu"*



Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, founder of MFJ.



### Dacron Rope

1/8", 3/16", 5/16", 1/2"

no stretch, UV proof



[www.KF7P.com](http://www.KF7P.com)



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### On the Air

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### ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.

The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are available on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts -- [On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#).



## The ARRL Antenna Book 25th Edition

The ultimate reference for antennas,  
transmission lines, and propagation.  
**ORDER NOW!**



## Announcements

**ARRL Resumes Accepting Life Membership Applications.** ARRL is again accepting new applications for Life Membership. Applications for Life Membership were paused last year, pending the approval of an adjusted, revenue-neutral program. Life Membership rates have now been established based on the current term dues amount and the applicant's age (requires verification). Payment can be made in full, or paid in 24 - monthly installments by credit card. ARRL Life Membership includes the benefits of membership for life. Print magazine subscriptions are sold separately. Visit the ARRL website for a complete list of [dues rates](#). Life Membership can be purchased at [www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join) (current members should login to the ARRL website first).



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The [National Trail Amateur Radio Club](#) (NTARC) will participate in a special event to commemorate the death of former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln on April 12 - 15, 2024. Special event call sign W9L will be in operation from 0001Z - 2359Z on 20 - and - 40 meters SSB, each day of the event. The club will operate from a recreated log cabin at the Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, an 86-acre history park located eight miles south of Charleston, Illinois. The cabin is where Lincoln's father and stepmother once lived, and Lincoln often visited the site. President Lincoln died on April 15, 1865, one day after being shot by John Wilkes Booth. A QSL card will be available from NTARC/K9UXZ, P.O. Box 903, Effingham, IL 62401.

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### In Brief...

**The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event organizers are looking for amateur radio volunteers.** The event honors the 13 original British colonies that rebelled against Great Britain and founded the United States of America in July 1776. The event will use all amateur radio frequencies and modes, and it runs from July 1 to 7, 2024. During this time, there will be special event stations on the air corresponding to each of the 13 colonies, in addition to two bonus stations with 1 x 1 call signs. Volunteers will need to be available to work for several hours on each of the seven days, and they will need to maintain a log using a computer. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 1, 2024. All applications should be emailed to Larry Krainson, W1AST, at [wb1dby@gmail.com](mailto:wb1dby@gmail.com). Anyone participating in the event can receive a certificate by working any of the 13 colony stations, and a clean sweep certificate will be available for those who work all 15 stations. In 2023, the Massachusetts station, K2H, made 19,209 contacts. For more information, visit the [13 Colonies](#) Special Event website.

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The advertisement is set against a dark blue background. On the left, there is a white diamond-shaped logo with the letters "A", "R", "R", "L" stacked vertically. To the right of the logo, the text "GET RADIO ACTIVE WITH AN END-FED HALF-WAVE ANTENNA KIT!" is written in yellow and white. In the center, there is a circular inset showing various electronic components like capacitors, resistors, and a coil. To the right of the inset is a photograph of three people (two men and one woman) working on a project at a table. In the bottom right corner, there is a photograph of the antenna kit's components, including a large coil and various wires, laid out on a surface.

### The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP0014:



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With the big increase in sunspot numbers and solar flux reported in last week's bulletin, I hoped the trend would continue. But, the numbers this week were lower.

Five new sunspot groups emerged: one each day from March 30 through April 3.

Average daily sunspot numbers went from 147 to 60, and average daily solar flux declined from 191.9 to 136.9.

Geomagnetic numbers were much quieter. Average daily planetary A index softened to 7.6 from 25.4.

Predicted solar flux is 112 and 114 on April 4 - 5; 115 on April 6 - 8; 120 on April 9 - 10; 140 on April 11 - 13; 150 on April 14 - 16; 160 on April 17 - 18; 170 on April 19 - 24; 160, 150, and 140 on April 25 - 27, and 130 on April 28 through May 4.

The predicted flux values for this week are much lower than in last week's forecast for the same period.

Predicted planetary A index is 18 on April 4 - 5; 8, 5, and 5 on April 6 - 8; 8 on April 9 - 11; 5 on April 12 - 18; 8 and 10 on April 19 - 20; 8 on April 21 - 23; 5 on April 24 - 26; 10 on April 27 - 28; 8 on April 29, and 12 on April 30 through May 2.

Watch footage of a long-duration flare at <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8w8viq>.

Chip Sufitchi, N2YO, sent this email last week:

"Thanks for your excellent ARRL propagation bulletins! I also [have been] running a weekly propagation bulletin for more than 20 years (in the Romanian language). The bulletin is available on the web, distributed online by email, and read during the "Info DX" QTC on 80 meters each Thursday in Romania. All bulletins are available here: <https://www.radioamator.ro/misc/buletinepropagare.php>. On the first of each month, I update a page of propagation charts in certain directions centered on Romania (YO) at

[https://www.radioamator.ro/misc/grafice\\_propagare.php](https://www.radioamator.ro/misc/grafice_propagare.php). I also run a YO DX cluster,



This solar disk image was taken on April 4, 2024. [Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]





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which is powered by a DXSpider server and hosted by a Raspberry Pi in my basement. They feed the web page at <https://www.radioamator.ro/yocluster/>. In fact, I run the whole [radioamator.ro](https://www.radioamator.ro) website, which is the most popular YO ham radio resource on the internet. This year, the website will have its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary."

See a recent video from Space Weather Woman Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, at <https://youtu.be/yKNB1YRX7kg>.

Sunspot numbers for March 28 through April 3, 2024, were 101, 79, 60, 50, 50, 35, and 45, with a mean of 60. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 172.7, 167.3, 139.6, 133.6, 120.4, 112.8, and 111.7, with a mean of 136.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 7, 6, 5, 9, 11, 8, and 7, with a mean of 7.6. Middle latitude A index was 6, 4, 4, 8, 9, 7, and 10, with a mean of 6.9.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to [k7ra@arrrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrrl.net).

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).

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### Just Ahead in Radiosport

- April 9 -- DARC RTTY Sprint (digital)

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information.

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# COMET

[www.cometantenna.com](http://www.cometantenna.com)

## Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- April 12 - 13 | [Green Country Hamfest 2024](#), hosting the ARRL Oklahoma State Convention, Claremore, Oklahoma
- April 20 | [Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo](#), hosting the ARRL Delaware State Convention, Georgetown, Delaware
- May 11 | [ARRL Nebraska State Convention](#), Lincoln, Nebraska
- May 17 - 19 | [Dayton Hamvention](#), hosting the ARRL National Convention, Xenia, Ohio
- May 31 - June 2 | [SEA-PAC](#), hosting the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, Oregon
- June 1 | [Atlanta Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Georgia Section Convention, Marietta, Georgia
- June 9 | [BreezeShooters Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention, Butler, Pennsylvania
- June 15 | [ARRL Maine State Convention & Hamfest](#), Augusta, Maine
- June 15 | [Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention](#), sponsoring the ARRL Delta Division Convention, Knoxville, Tennessee

Search the [ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database](#) to find events in your area.



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### Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for the ARRL Letter and ARRL News can be sent to [news@arrl.org](mailto:news@arrl.org). --  
John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, ARRL News [Editor](#)

#### ARRL -- Your One-Stop Resource for Amateur Radio News and Information

- [Join ARRL or Renew Today!](#) No other organization works harder to promote and protect amateur radio. Membership supports benefits, services, programs, and advocacy to help you get (and stay) active and on the air. Membership includes access to digital editions of all four ARRL [magazines](#): QST, On the Air, QEX, and NCJ.
- Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.
- *The ARRL Letter* is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the [Blind-hams Groups.io](#) email group. The group is dedicated to discussions about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.
- [NCJ -- National Contest Journal](#). Published bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint, and QSO parties.
- [QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters](#). Published bimonthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns, and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.



Free of charge to ARRL members...

- [Subscribe](#) to the *ARES Letter* (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the *ARRL Contest Update* (biweekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts, and much more!



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- Find ARRL on [Facebook](#)! Follow us on [Threads](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#)

### Attachments area

Preview YouTube video A Dark Coronal Hole, A Total Solar Eclipse, and a Parting Shot | Space Weather News 02 April 2024

## ARRL Podcasts

### On the Air

*Sponsored by Icom*

Served Agencies: Who They Are and How We Serve Them

We often hear about served agencies when hams talk about disaster response and emergency communications. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, joins the podcast this month to discuss exactly what and who served agencies are, and where the Amateur Radio Service fits into their responses.



### ARRL Audio News

Listen to ARRL Audio News, available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.

The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are available on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts -- On the Air | ARRL Audio News.



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## Announcements

**The High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) will be conducting a new research campaign on May 8 - 10, 2024, and amateur radio operators can participate by monitoring signal reports.** Using high-powered transmitters located at the HAARP facility at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, HAARP transmissions will be between 2.8 MHz and 10 MHz, although operating frequencies and transmitting times may vary depending on propagation. Transmitting times scheduled on May 8 - 9 are 2000 - 0200 UTC and 2000 - 0230 on May 10. The experiment is designed to study mechanisms for the detection of orbiting space debris, which are a major risk to space operations, including manned spacecraft and communications satellites. The experiments being performed at HAARP will help identify ways to improve collision detection on satellites. Amateur radio operators,





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shortwave listeners, and radio astronomers with receivers or software-defined receivers (SDRs) capable of 8 MHz bandwidth can monitor the entire frequency band during the experiments and report band conditions. A HAARP QSL card for reception reports will also be available to those who send reports to: HAARP, P.O. Box 271, Gakona, Alaska 99586 USA. More information about HAARP experiments can be found at FAQ | HAARP (alaska.edu).

**The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking to hire two people for the role of Electronics Engineer (Field Agent) in Los Angeles, California.**

Applications will be taken until May 23, 2024. The incumbent will resolve radio frequency (RF) interference, educate users, and enforce regulations. They will investigate all services for violations of Title 47 U.S. Code Section 301 and unlicensed operations of radio transmitting equipment. They will perform and direct fieldwork in matters of importance to communications involving safety of life and property. They will also serve as a point of contact for FCC licensees and the U.S. government in matters of fixed and mobile radio-direction finding and interference resolution. The position will further involve participation in unique enforcement and engineering projects that have regional or national applications. Complete information for this position, DEU-EB-2024-0009, and how to apply, can be found at <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/787941000>.

**The ARRL Public Relations Committee will offer PR training workshops for 2024 ARRL Field Day.** The training sessions are slated to be a series of live webinars held on Wednesday, May 22, at 7:30 PM EDT and 10:00 PM EDT (7:00 pm PDT), and Wednesday May, 29, at 8:00 PM EDT (5:00 PM PDT). Registration information will be available soon. Experts in media, public relations, and outreach will share best practices to help equip public information officers and club leadership to get the local spotlight on their activities.

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## The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP0018:



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After the record sunspot numbers in last week's bulletin, ARLP017, the April 25 - May 1 reporting week, has more modest numbers. In fact, the average daily sunspot number (124.6) is less than half the value (265.9) in the previous bulletin.

Seven new sunspot groups appeared this week.

One sunspot group emerged on April 25, another appeared on April 27, two more on April 29, and one each on April 30 and May 1.

Average daily solar flux shifted from 216 to 144.9.

Average daily planetary A index dropped from 13.9 to 9.6.

The solar flux estimate for this month and the next month has values peaking at 205 on May 15 - 16 and again on June 11 - 12.

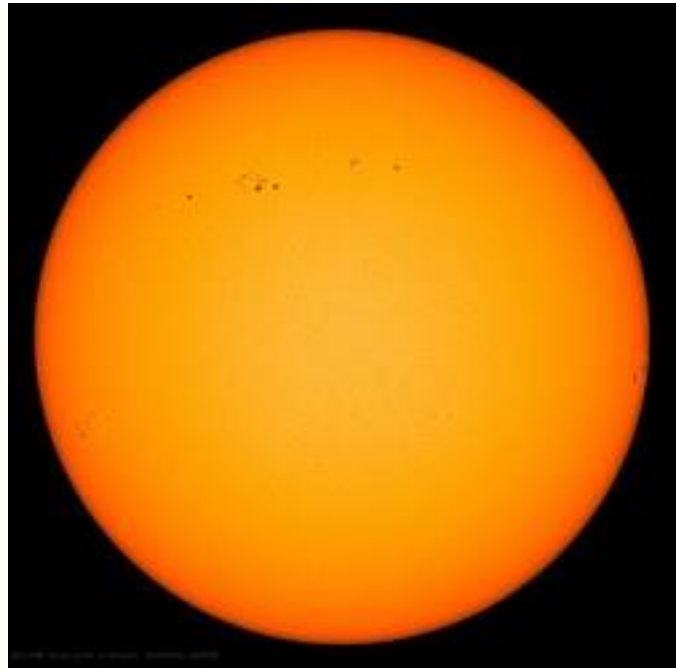
The values are 134 and 130 on May 2 - 3; 132 on May 4 - 5; 134, 136, 138, and 140 on May 6 - 9; 155 on May 10 - 11; 160, 175, and 180 on May 12 - 14; 205 on May 15 - 16; 200, 195, 190, 185, 180, and 165 on May 17 - 22; 145 on May 23 - 24, and 140, 135, 130, and 125 on May 25 - 28.

Predicted planetary A index is 20, 18, 16, 12, and 10 on May 2 - 6; 5 on May 7 - 22; 15 on May 23; 12 on May 24 - 25, and 10, 8, 15, 18, and 10 on May 26 - 30.

Sunspot numbers for April 25 through May 1, 2024, were 196, 154, 126, 119, 88, 85, and 104, with a mean of 124.6. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 166.7, 152.6, 152.6, 140.1, 137.6, 130.2, and 134.8, with a mean of 144.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 19, 12, 7, 6, 12, and 8, with a mean of 9.6. Middle latitude A index was 3, 11, 12, 7, 7, 10, and 10, with a mean of 8.6.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service, read "What the Numbers Mean...", and check out the Propagation Page of Carl



This solar disk image was taken on May 2, 2024. [Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]





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Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin archive is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the VOACAP Online for Ham Radio website.

Share your reports and observations.

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**DUAL BAND, WIDE BAND, HIGH GAIN, VHF/UHF MOBILE ANTENNA**

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# COMET

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## Just Ahead in Radiosport

- May 7 -- ARS Spartan Sprint (CW)
- May 8 -- VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest (FT8)
- May 9 -- QRP Minimal Art Session (CW)

Visit the ARRL Contest Calendar for more events and information.

## Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- May 11 | ARRL Nebraska State Convention, Lincoln, Nebraska
- May 17 - 19 | Dayton Hamvention, hosting the ARRL National Convention, Xenia, Ohio
- May 31 - June 2 | SEA-PAC, hosting the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, Oregon



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- June 1 | Atlanta Hamfest, hosting the ARRL Georgia Section Convention, Marietta, Georgia
- June 9 | BreezeShooters Hamfest, hosting the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention, Butler, Pennsylvania
- June 15 | ARRL Maine State Convention & Hamfest, Augusta, Maine
- June 15 | Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention, sponsoring the ARRL Delta Division Convention, Knoxville, Tennessee

Search the ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database to find events in your area.

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### Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for the ARRL Letter and ARRL News can be sent to [news@arrl.org](mailto:news@arrl.org). --  
*John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, ARRL News Editor*

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- Listen to ARRL Audio News, available every Friday.
- *The ARRL Letter* is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the Blind-hams Groups.io email group. The group is dedicated to discussions about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.
- *NCJ -- National Contest Journal*. Published





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bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint, and QSO parties.

- *QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters*. Published bimonthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns, and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

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